DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 375 055 SO 024 506

TITLE	The Girl Child, An Investment in the Future. Revised Edition 1991.
INSTITUTION	United Nations Children's Fund, New York, N.Y.
REPORT NO	ISBN-92-806-1003-1
PUB DATE	Apr 91
NOTE	141p.
AVAILABLE FROM	United Nations Children's Fund, Programme Publications, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Access to Education; Cultural Context; Dropouts; Elementary Secondary Education; *Enrollment; *Equal Education; Females; Foreign Countries; *Literacy; *Womens Education
IDENTIFIERS	*Algeria

ABSTRACT

There are growing discernible differences between the status of Algerian girls and Algerian boys, as the onset of puberty approaches, in educational or literacy attainment or achievement. Around 19% of Algerian girls never attend school or drop out very early on. School is legally mandated through the age of 16, but many girls' families simply do not send them to school. As puberty approaches, more and more girls are removed from school; while dropout rates for boys of 11 years of age are 6.35%, they are 10.42% for girls. This trend is particularly powerful in the rural areas of Algeria, where attendance percentages for rural girls primary school may be as low as 35.89%. Similar disparities exist between boys and girls in terms of literacy. While 7.23% of boys aged 15-19 are illiterate, 25.30% of girls this age are. Once again, girls in rural areas are more likely to be unschooled than their urban sisters; while urban rates of illiteracy for girls are somewhere between 1.07% and 4.91%, rural girls have rates of around 48.89% and 46.33% These figures infer that girls in Algeria are discriminated against in access to and achievement in school. Rural girls face particularly fierce discrimination. The most likely causes are: rural girls are needed for home producing more often that urban girls, schools are too far away, and social attitudes in rural areas tend to be more conservative. This study highlights the plight of the Algerian girl. Women's groups in Algeria, as well as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and 20 NGO's (Non Government Organization), are working to lessen the disparity between the treatment of boys and girls, and are working to change the general population's views of sex discrimination. Only with a lessening of the existing disparity will Algerian women be able to be fully incorporated into "all aspects of life." (NK)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

THIS
DOCUMENT
NOT
AVAILABLE
FROM

EDRS